

June 2016

Volume 13, Issue 6

JUNE

Birthdays

Betty Lamb	6-6
Jim Magnuson	6-7
Ione Edlen	6-20
Sheri Godfroy	6-24

Anniversaries

Bill & Connie Joy	6-12
Jay & Cheri Nugent	6-16
Paul & Karla Gunzenhauser	6-21
John & Pat Olsen	6-21
John & Lori Myers	6-28

JULY

Birthdays

Doug Doggett	7-4
Richard Potter	7-7
Gerald Reese	7-11
Noah Paeth	7-13
Donna Pritchard	7-16
Janet Moser	7-18
Lori Myers	7-18
Loudean Kirkpatrick	7-23
John Olsen	7-25
Paul Gunzenhauser	7-29

Anniversaries

Joe & Sheri Godfroy	7-1
Loudean & Marilyn Kirkpatrick	7-2
Denis & Connie Biechler	7-6
Andee & Joe Vocelka	7-13
Dick & Susan Tinder	7-19



All Aboard

for the 2016

Central Iowa Garden Railroad Tour

It's like waiting for your birthday or Christmas, a once a year event, anxiously anticipated. Our six hosts are finalizing preparations and planning for admiring crowds.

If you are not volunteering at one of the tour sites, Ole encourages you to show your appreciation and support by visiting each layout. Remember to Invite a Friend!

Following the tour, plan to gather for a BBQ hosted by John and Pat Olson. Bring your chair and a side dish.

**Our thanks to our CIGRS 2016 Tour hosts:**

- 1 Callalet Railway- - Mike Armstrong
9582 Wilson St., West Des Moines, IA**
- 2 S&J Crooked Creek Railroad - Sam & Julia Mora and Grodon & Kathy Cox
713 SE Meadowlark Dr., Grimes, IA**
- 3 BCG&O Railroad- Joe and Andee Vocelka
6659 NW 52nd Ct, Johnston, IA**
- 4 Deer Creek Railroad- Mike Meston
1075 NW 67th Pl, Des Moines, IA**
- 5 Iron Horse Railroad- Ron & Kay Huntimer
1318 SW 3rd St, Ankeny, IA**
- 6 Reindeer Pass Railroad- Mike & Renee Kidman
5220 NW 8th St, Ankeny, IA**

**For your copy of the Tour Guide,
visit our web page at
<http://www.cigrs.net/Photos/2016-Tour-Driving-Directions-4.pdf>**

Inside this issue:

May Meeting Highlights	2
John Carl Building Clinic	2
Spotlight	3
May Meeting Photos	4
Front Yard Layout	5
2016 Meeting Schedule	7

May Meeting Highlights from Ole, President and Roving Reporter

We had a nice turnout at Kidman's for our first open house of the season. There were lots of trains running out at Reindeer Pass. In addition to the regulars, we were pleased to welcome both new members and guests.

John Carl's clinic was well received and we even had a little show and tell and a little show and sell. All the food was yummy! Thanks to everyone. It was a really fun evening. Also, thanks to Mike and Renee for a great kickoff for our outdoor season.

Be sure to check the upcoming events tab on the website so you don't miss any of the fun. www.cigrs.net If you are into the land of social media, please ask your friends to LIKE us to help spread the word about the tour.

May clinic: building structures by John Carl John Olson reporting

Building projects, which include all kinds of structures like tunnel portals, retaining walls, bridges, and so on, start with a 3/16" sandwich of high impact polystyrene skin with of polystyrene foam core. The product is weather proof. Easily cut with a utility knife, a good straightedge is a metal T-square to insure 90° corners. The best glue to use is Omni-Stick which sets up in 40 seconds and is weatherproof and UV resistant. The appropriate finish for the panels is an embossed plastic sheet that comes in 39 different choices. Walls, roofs, and floors are available as well as stone, bricks, and concrete block. The same glue works well, and all

Next on the docket is the **Garden Railroad Tour on Saturday, June 25 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. We have 3 new hosts on the tour this year. Please go to the CIGRS website to see all the locations and read a little about each layout. Only \$10 a carload. It's still one of the most fun ways to spend time with family and friends. Then, come relax and run trains on Ole and Pat's Boulder Creek Railroad. They will have a variety of BBQ goodies and bottled water. So, bring dish or a dessert to

can be painted, starting with a spray primer which helps with UV resistance. Both the underlying materials and the embossed come in sheets about 15"X15". Some building tips for these materials: use triangular braces in the corners of the buildings to make sure the corners are absolutely square and to provide a little additional adhesion, the buildings are lightweight so you may wish to add some weight. The products mentioned are available at the Kidman's, and the glue is also available at Hobby Lobby. To see all the choices of embossed sheets, go to Ozark Miniatures on the web, and select Precision Products,

share, a lawn chair and we'll celebrate summer. We'll plan to eat around 5:30.

Trusting you had a wonderful Memorial Day. A Special Thanks to all who have served or are serving our country as a member of the Armed Forces.

John Olsen

Richard and Beth Potter shout out a big THANK YOU! to John Olson for covering the May meeting and Ron Mash for the photos!



The term "horsepower" originated as a marketing tool.

James Watt didn't invent the steam engine, but he did create the world's first modern one, and developed the means of measuring its power. In the 1760s, the Scottish inventor began tinkering with an earlier version of the engine designed by Thomas Newcomen. Newcomen's design required constant cooling down and re-heating, wasting vast amounts of energy. Watt's innovation was to add a separate condenser, greatly improving the engine's efficiency. A savvy sales-

(<http://www.ozarkminiatures.com/scripts/prodList.asp?idCategory=1323>).

If Precision Products doors and windows aren't your first choice, Grandt Line (<http://www.grandtline.com/>) is still very good, and the Kidmans (<http://www.reindeerpass.com/>) now have a new line that also has good detail. Another product shown at the clinic was a 5/8" square plastic product sold at Lowe's in the exterior trim department under the name "door stop." This product is weatherproof as well and has a variety of uses from trestle bents, to strengthening rock walls, to feet for loading docks, and more. It certainly can be glued but even more you can screw and nail the pieces.

May clinic: building structures by John Carl continued from pg 2

It comes in 8' lengths and sells for under \$7 a piece. Sintra is a cousin of the above products and normally is 1/8" thick and can be found at sign shops--try the scrap bin or buy a 4X8' piece if you need it. It is exterior grade, can be screwed or glued and again has a variety of uses. It can be scored with a utility knife and snapped.

To make your buildings and cars look their very best, you first need a flat, not glossy, surface. If your

model has a shiny plastic look, hit it with Dullcote or a matte spray from any spray paint selection. Mask your model's windows before you spray. Adding a wash or a wipe of color will help bring out the detail. For dark color models, try grays or tans and for light colors try blacks and browns. Adding a little wear and tear to your buildings and cars may help sell the idea that your railroad or town looks like the real thing. Air brushing, using wash-

es and wipes, and dry brushing all contribute to a great setting.

All of us that share the garden railroad hobby have a sub interest in some aspects like operation, or horticulture, or detailing, or electronics, and more. But whatever your specialty, it is a great hobby, and a very satisfying endeavor.



man, Watt knew that he needed a way to market his new product. He calculated how much power a single horse working in a mill could produce over a period of time (though many scientists now believe his estimates were far too high), a figure that he dubbed "horsepower." Using this unit of measurement, he then came up with a figure that indicated how many horses just one of his engines could replace. The sales ploy worked—we're still using the term "horsepower" today—and his engines soon became the industry standard, leading directly to invention of the first steam locomotive in 1804.



G-Scale News on YouTube from

New members, Tim and Joanie Johnson from Reinbeck, IA are no strangers to model trains. Over the last few years, Tim has worked with and posted video clips about N, HO, and O scale models on his YouTube channel, FTLOT (For The Love of Trains). After a year's hiatus, Tim has recently posted a video about his new passion, G Scale Trains. In the video he explains he attended a train show last year and got hooked on G scale. He added that he and some friends are working on a mobile layout that they can set up to run trains any where, any time.

Tim invites members to subscribe to FTLOT on You Tube and view his latest video <https://www.youtube.com/user/FTLOT>.

A warm welcome to Tim and Joanie!





Members enjoyed good weather and good company at the May CIGRS meetings at Kidman's.

Again, our thanks to Mike and Renee for their hospitality and support.

ON PUTTING THE GARDEN RAILROAD IN THE FRONT YARD

By John Carl



"Front yard?" you ask. "I'm not so sure." Well, let me explain. First, like you, I have always loved trains, running away from home at age 4 to see what the Rock Island Railroad was doing in Valley Junction. And then on to Lionel, then to HO, then N, then scale O, and then 30 years ago infatuation with garden railroads. And always (I've moved 4 times in the last 20 years) putting the layout in a slightly unobtrusive place, usually referred to as the back yard.

I moved again a little over a year ago, to be closer to my daughter and her family, but I thought it was time to retire from outdoor trains. So I sold my track and some buildings, kept a few of my trains and moved 1,800 miles. It wasn't two weeks before I starting looking at my yard and thinking, "Now if I put it over there, and run a loop here, and put a trestle in the..." A week later I was on the phone ordering track. That retirement didn't last long.

My homes have always been in a rural setting and this was is no different, but because of the terrain and the placement of the house and garage, the best possible location was the front yard. I was conflicted. What will the neighbors think? Will this cause a drop in property values? Do the home-owners association rules regarding nuisances mean train whistles? Let me digress for a moment to assure you that my front yard is very visible to both walkers, and vehicular traffic that is normally traveling less than 20 miles an hour over a hard surface road.

ON PUTTING THE GARDEN RAILROAD IN THE FRONT YARD

Continued from page 5

The railroad wasn't finished a week before I got my answer to the acceptance of trains in the neighborhood. A neighbor, who I had not met, knocked on my front door, introduced himself, and told me he was entertaining 2 couples from out of state next Monday, and that he knew they would like to see the trains run. I said, "How about 5PM, and would that be white wine or red?"

"Both," was his answer.

A week after that a neighbor woman walking by put her hands to her mouth and uttered, "O my God, you have to same disease as my husband!" So I got to know Joe very well and talk and run G trains.

I don't think that would have come together without a visable layout.

But it's not just neighbors. The UPS man made me run the train, the guy digging in fiber optic wanted to see it, the electrician working on a new home down the block stopped his truck and lamented that he had always loved trains. And I could go on. Just this morning a man asked if he could bring the grandchildren over. Sure. A train in the front yard has introduced me to interesting people I may never have met.

Are there problems: pesky children, grumpy neighbors, malicious teens? No, no, and no. Deer and rabbits Yes, but I can't hide the layout well enough to fool them. Why should I be so surprised at this popularity? Every major botanical garden now has a train now running through it. In August Paul Busse completed a railroad at the huge Reiman Gardens on the Iowa State University campus and more than 500 people showed up for the first running. And look at the success of the well thought out, well advertised garden railway tours. From the Portland, Oregon club highlighted in this magazine recently to the year in year out crowds in the Des Moines, Iowa area, people love looking at trains in a flower garden setting.

I am reminded of a wonderful story I heard at one of the national conventions. A man whose daughter was to be wed could only schedule a 10AM ceremony and a 4PM reception. What to do between times to entertain the guests? He built a garden railway in his yard and it worked so well they were late to the party.

Never the less, I was still concerned about my property value, and now that dilemma has been resolved.

Three months ago on a Saturday morning, there was a knock on the door. "Hello, I am from the county assessor's office, " she said. (I believed it was crunch time.) "That is the cutest train ever, " she bubbled. "Here, hold my briefcase while I take pictures for my son and everybody at the office. How darling!"

My hopes of reduced value and lower taxes were dashed. The assessment came about a week ago--slightly higher.

John Carl

2016 CIGRS Schedule



Save the date:

July 16th

Mike Meston

1075 NW 67th PI Des Moines, IA

Open House 4-7

Potluck starts at 4:00



NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL
IOWA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meeting at which we discuss one another's current project, hobby news, and the latest products on the market.

Programs are presented at some meetings, either by one of our members, or by someone brought in from outside the organization. The programs generally cover some element of the hobby, from the history of local and other Railroads, to rolling stock to track work, to locomotive, includes electric operation, batter-powered and trains that actually run on live steam.

**June 25th Annual Garden Railroad Tour 9 AM to 4 PM

*July 17th Mike Meston, Des Moines - Potluck

***August 13th Jay & Cheri Nugent, Bring Cookies
Lemonade & Tea provided

***September 18th Mike Armstrong, West Des Moines-Potluck

***October 16th, Location and Date Open Contact Ole to schedule

*November 20th Durham School Services, Ankeny ,Annual Business Meeting: Election of Officers, Planning for 2017, Review Member Surveys

December 10 Grandview Church of Christ—Potluck—time to be determined

- * Business Meetings
- ** Events
- *** Open House

Sunday, October 30, 2016 9am-3pm

North Central Iowa Model Railroad Club.

Franklin County Convention Center, Highway 3, West Hampton, IA.

Key Contacts for 2016 Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

President
John (Ole) Olsen
olsenj725@me.com
(515) 306-9699

Vice President
Mike Kidman
kidman@att.net
(515) 984-6946

Treasurer
Howard Hoy
howardandkay-
hoy@mchsi.com
(515) 236-4267

Secretary
Ben Hancock
benhandcock@iowatelecom.net
(641)203-0895

At Large Representative
Gene Elphic
eerepair@msn.com
(641) 425-4553

Karla Gunzenhauser
pkgunzy@iowatelecom.net
Phone: (641)877-6226

Club Librarian
Ron Huntimer
huntimer4@aol.com
(515)964-1851

Friendship Committee
Donna Pritchard
(515)462-2542

Newsletter Editor
Beth Potter
bethnrichardcigrs@gmail.com
(319) 290-0678

Club Co-Historians
Janet Moser
janm@netins.net
(515)677-2124